

Oshtemo Sewer Survey

Prepared by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for
Employment Research

May 04, 2021



Introduction

- The goal of this survey was to inform township officials on resident viewpoints concerning sewer expansion and why residents felt that way.
- This survey was developed in conjunction with Oshtemo township officials and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.
- Information is reported at aggregate levels. No individual names or individual responses are reported in this report.
- We hope this survey helps you gain insight into:
 - The current state of septic systems in the township
 - Resident viewpoints on sewer connection
 - Preferences for municipal infrastructure funding

Key Takeaways – Septic System

- Over half (60.8%) of septic systems in the township are reported as being over sixteen years old.
- Those living in neighborhoods highlighted in green were more likely to report septic systems that were over 25 years old than those not living in neighborhoods highlighted in green.
- Only one-in-ten (12.0%) of residents have ever had the replace their septic system.
- About half of residents (57.3%) reported it cost less than \$5,000 to replace their septic system.

Key Takeaways – Sewer Connection

- The majority of residents (58%) were not interested in having their property connect to sewer.
- Residents living in neighborhoods highlighted in green were twice as likely to report wanting to connect to sewer.
- Older residents were more likely to want to connect to sewer.
- Three-in-four (74.9%) residents who did not want to connect to sewer, indicated they did not want to connect because of the expense of installing a private pipe.
- The majority of residents (70.5%) indicated that it would be somewhat difficult or difficult to finance the one-time private connection fee.

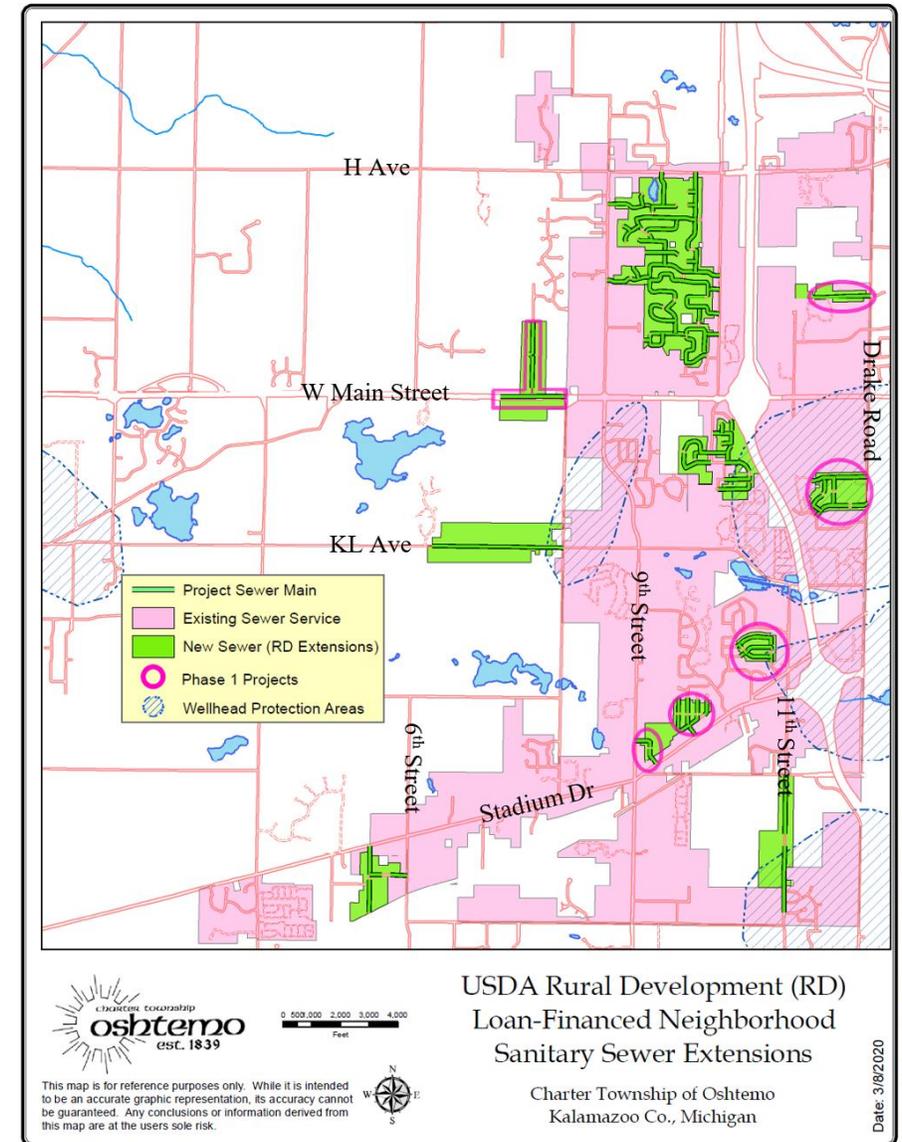
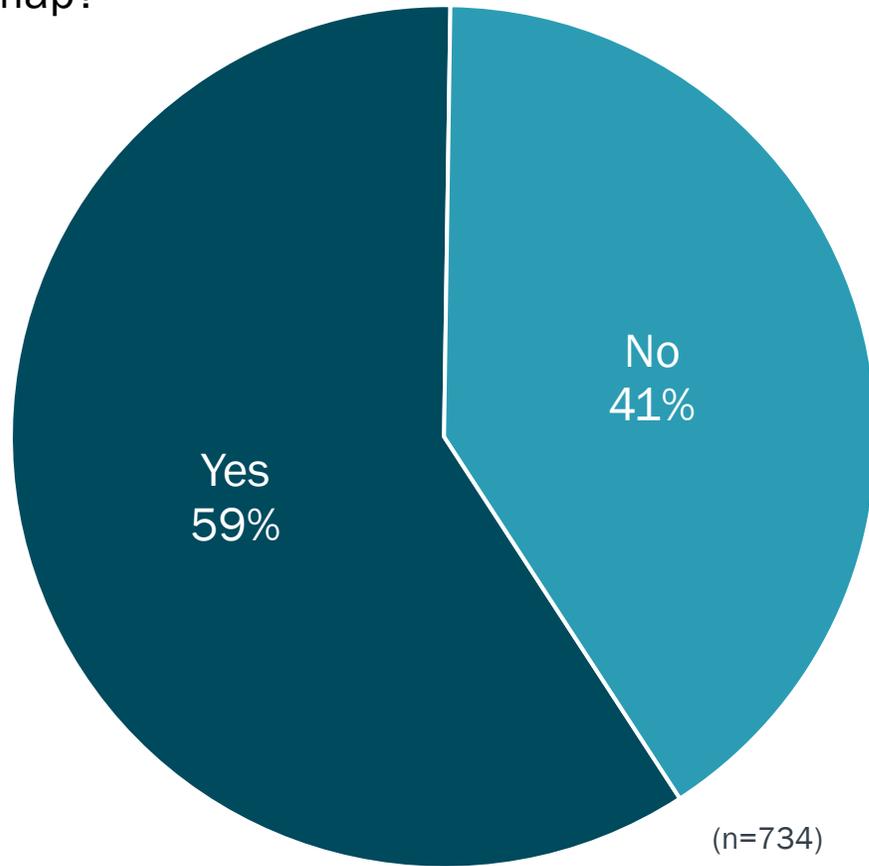
Key Takeaways – Infrastructure

- The majority of residents (53.3%) agreed that it was important for the township to protect water quality.
- Two-in-three residents (62.8%) indicated that sewer projects should be funded from the general fund.
- Less than one-third of residents (29.0%) wanted to pay for public sewer through an annual fee.
- Only half (49.0%) of residents thought the cost of public sewer should be offset through a road millage and the general fund.
- Three-in-four residents (72.5%) thought a millage was the best way to pay for road reconstruction.

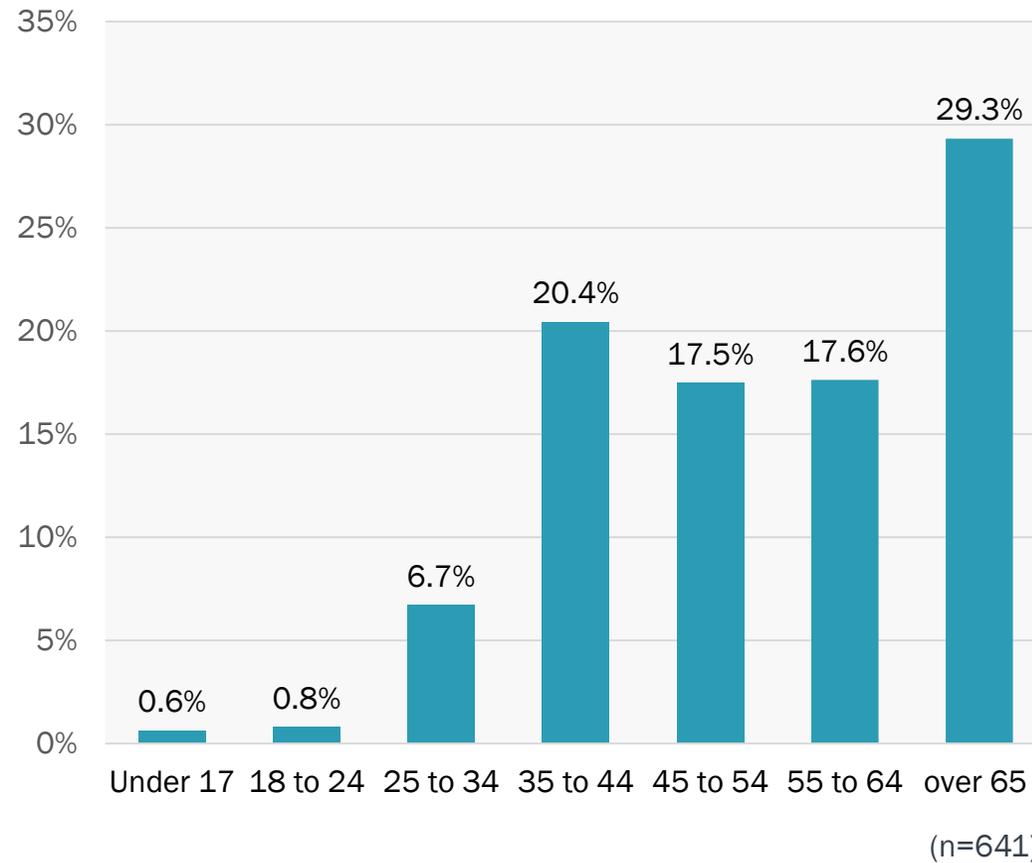
Demographics

Geography of Survey Respondents

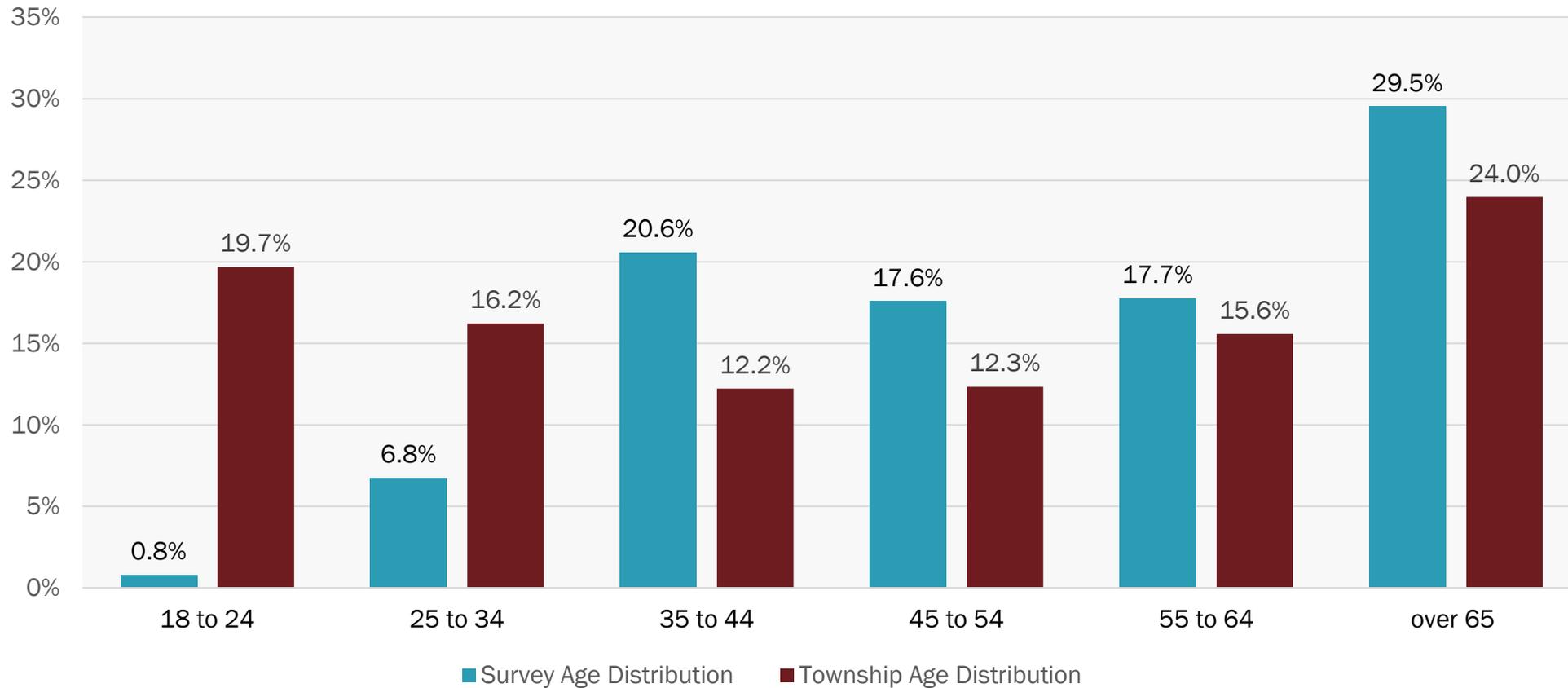
Do you live within one of the neighborhoods highlighted in green in the map?



Age of Respondents



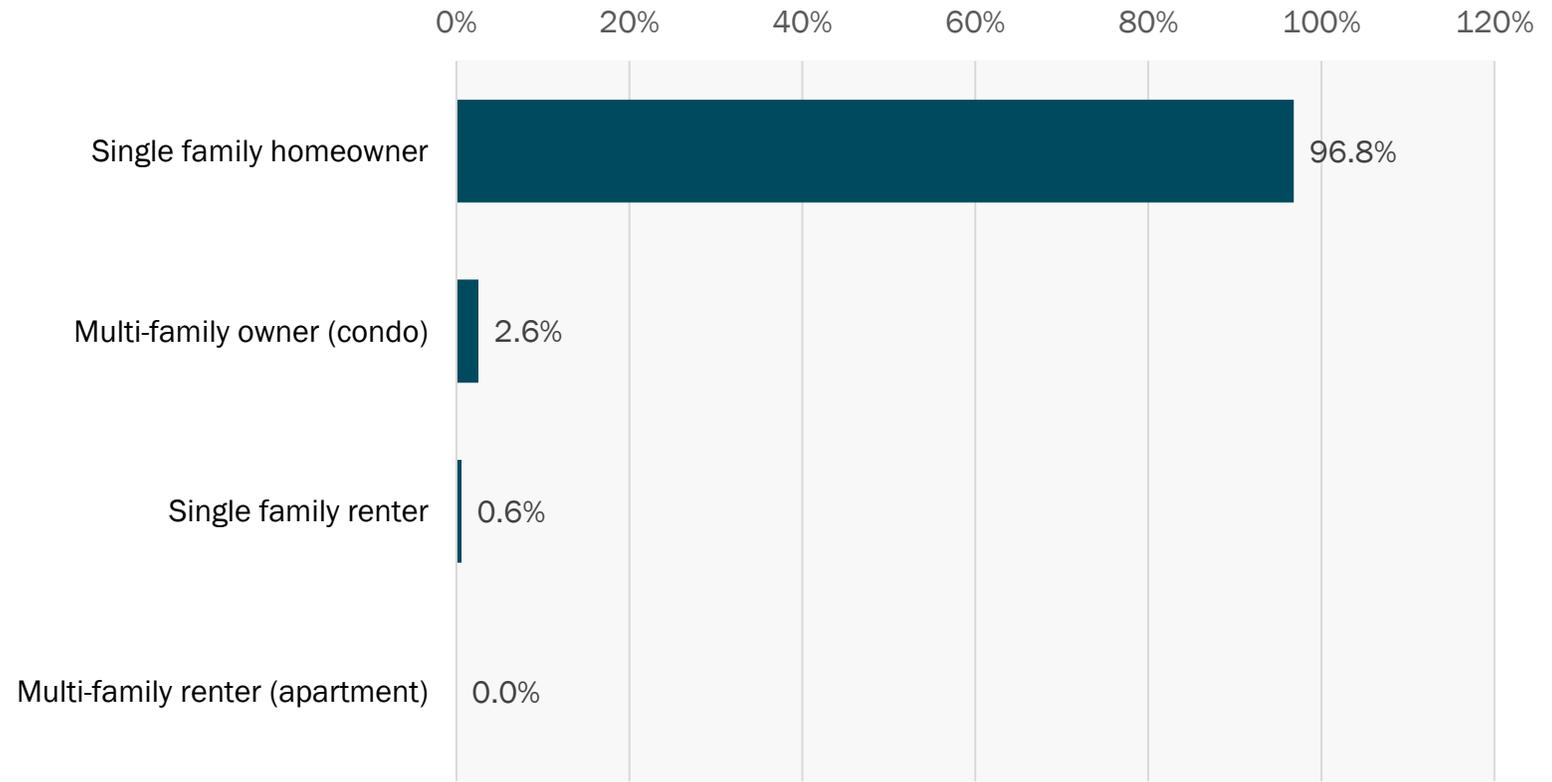
Age of Respondents Compared to Township Population over the age of 18



(n=637)

Type of Homeownership

Which best describes your type of homeownership?

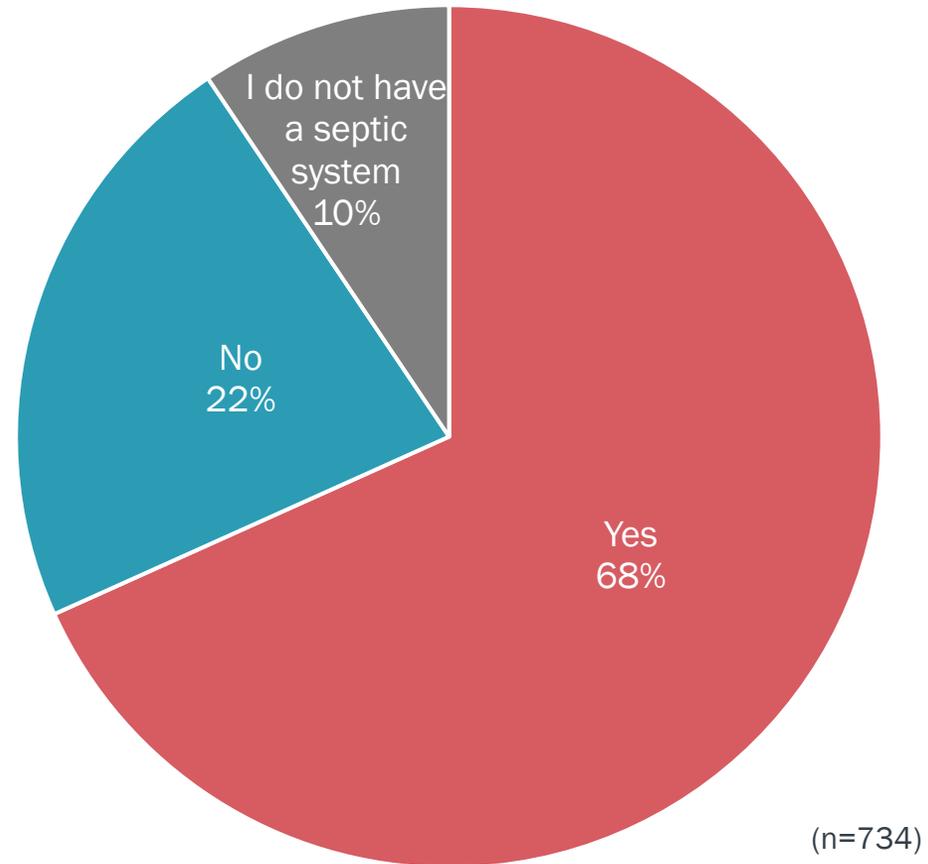


(n=662)

Septic System

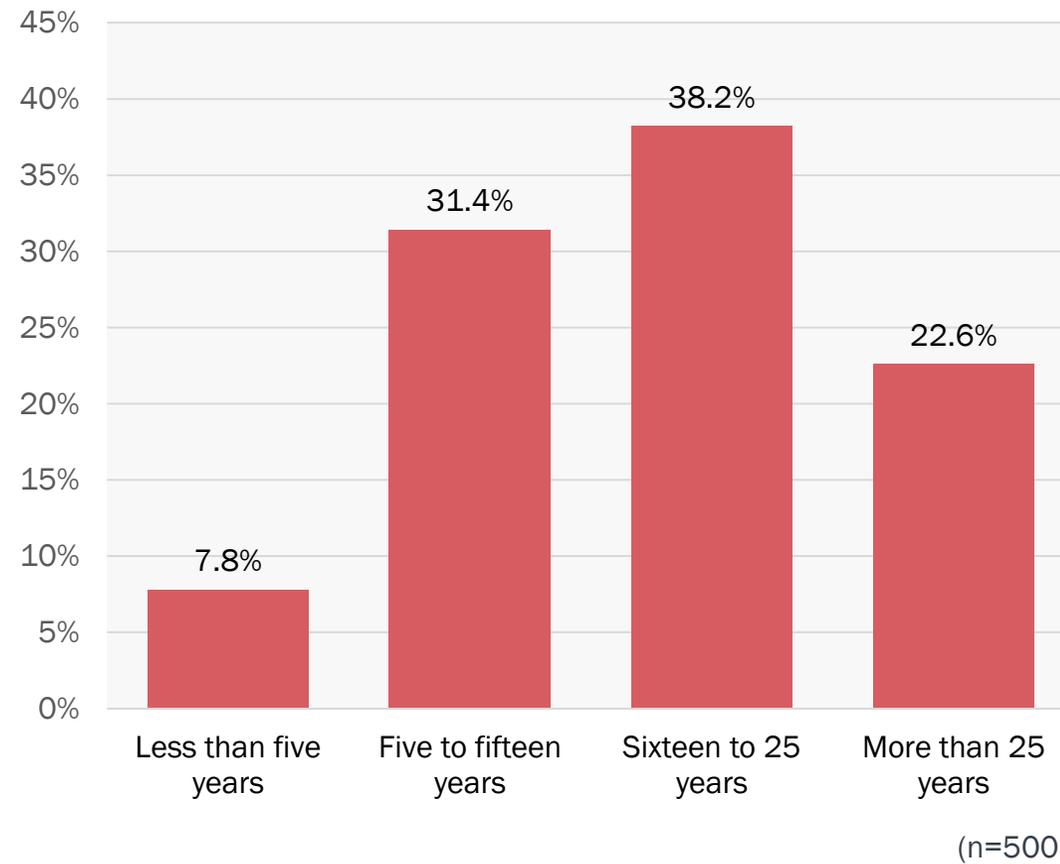
Age of Septic System

Do you know the current age of your septic system?



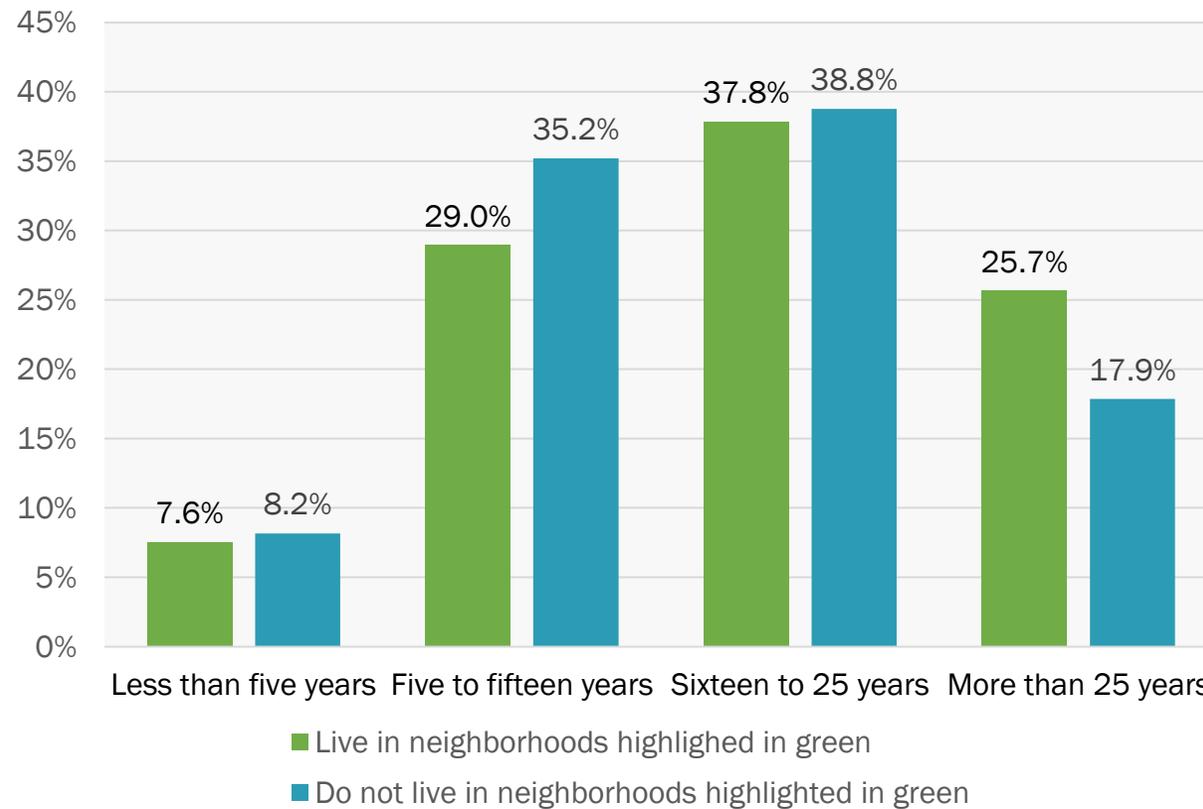
Age of Septic System

If yes, approximately how old is your current septic system?



Age of Septic System

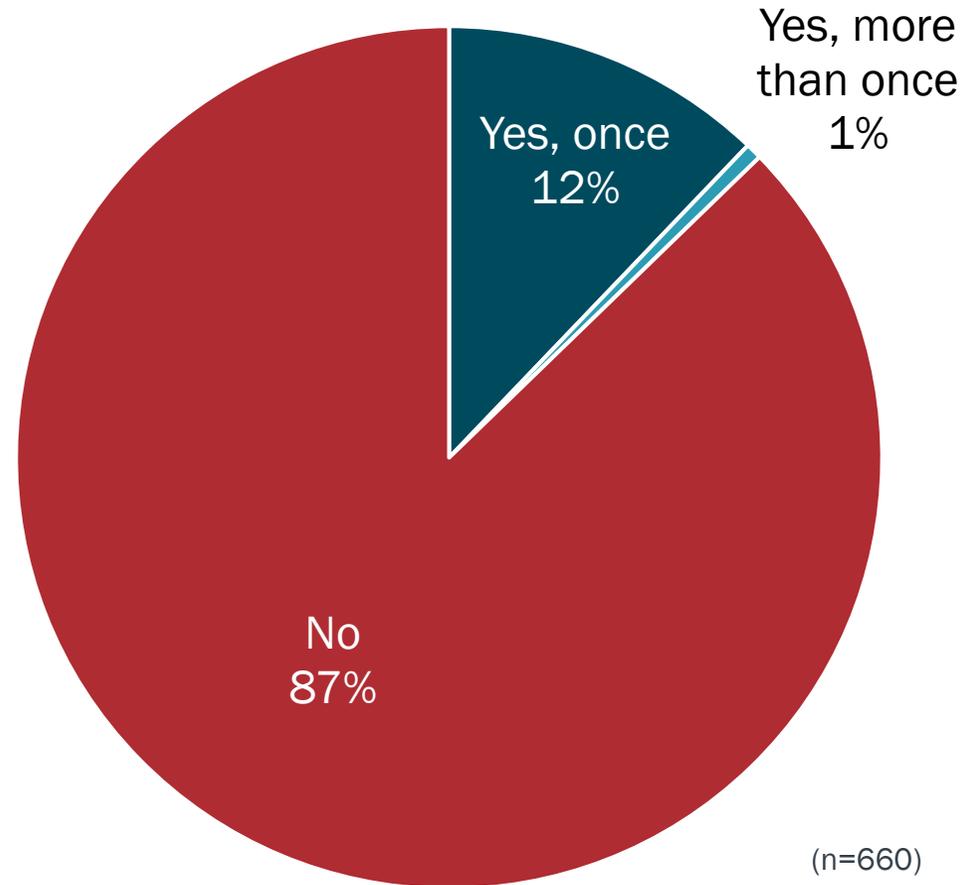
If yes, approximately how old is your current septic system?



(n=500)

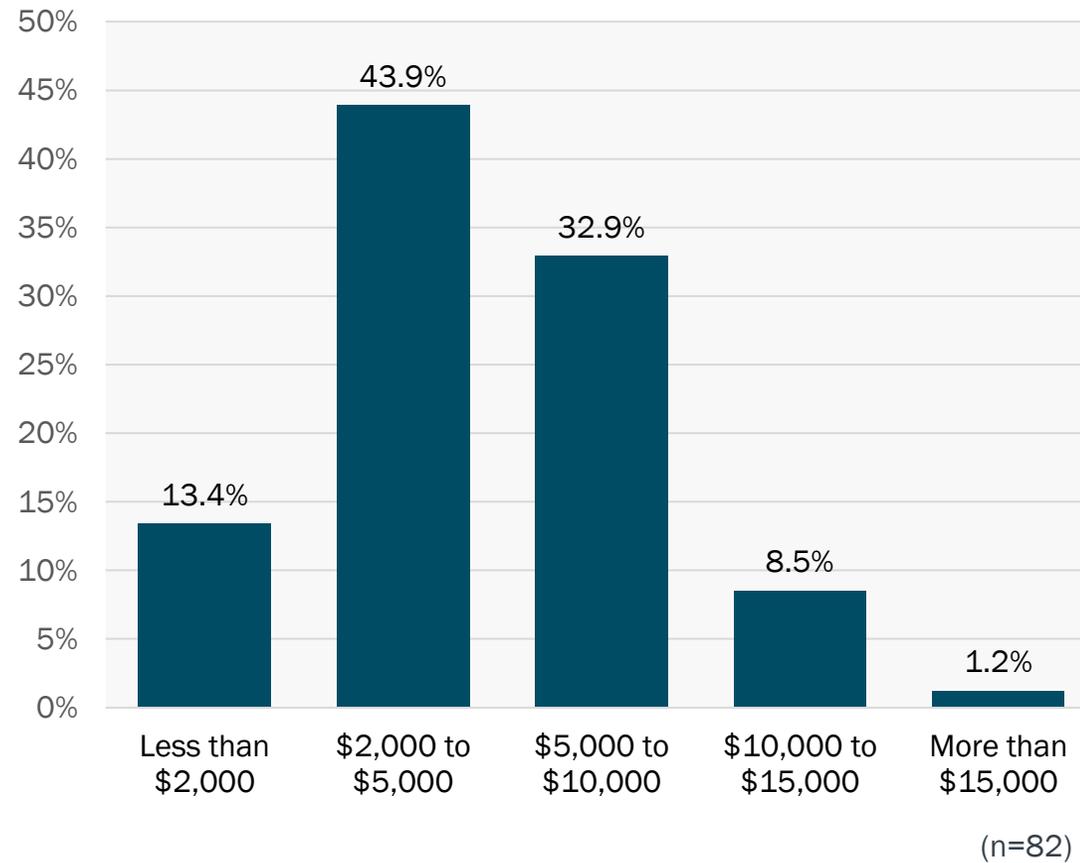
Replacement of Septic System

Have you ever had to replace your septic system?



Replacement of Septic System

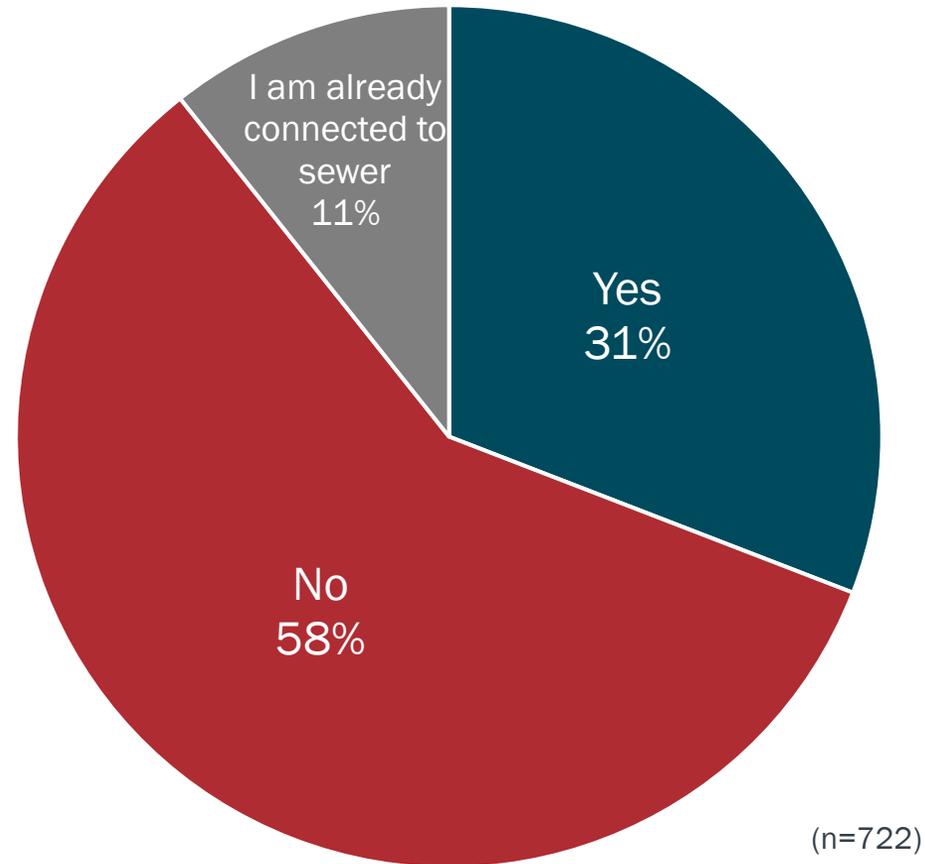
If yes, approximately how much did it cost to replace your septic system?



Sewer Connection

Sewer Connection

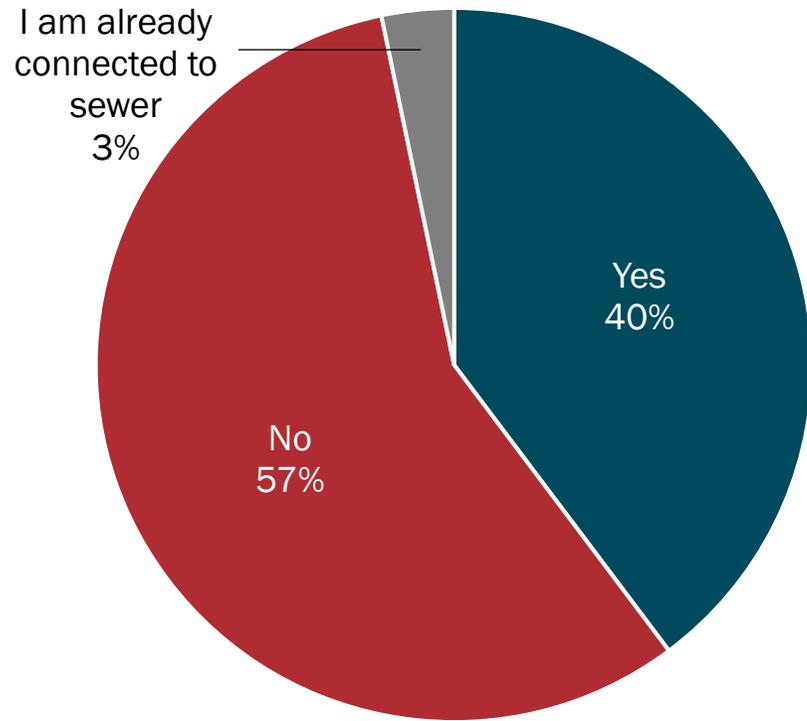
Are you interested in having your property connect to sewer?



Sewer Connection

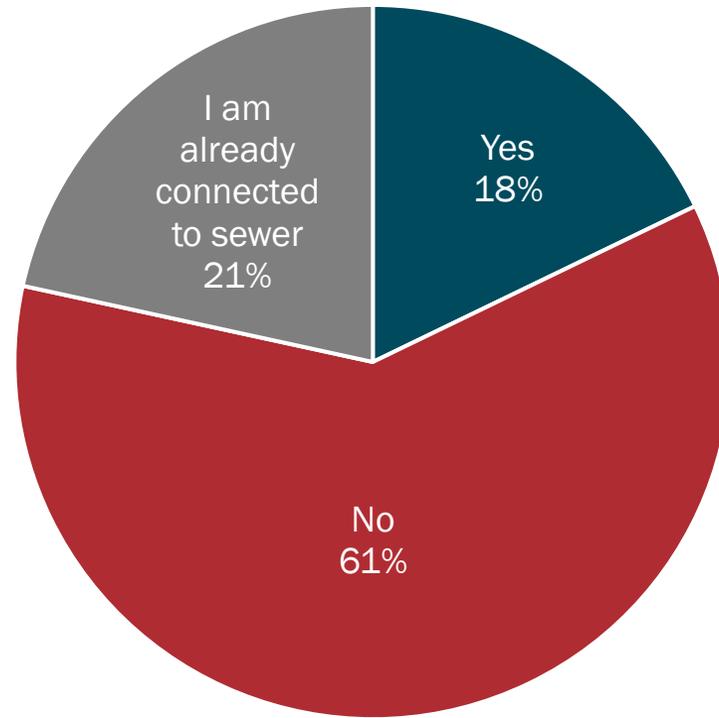
Are you interested in having your property connect to sewer?

Live in neighborhoods highlighted in green



(n=430)

Do NOT live in neighborhoods highlighted in green

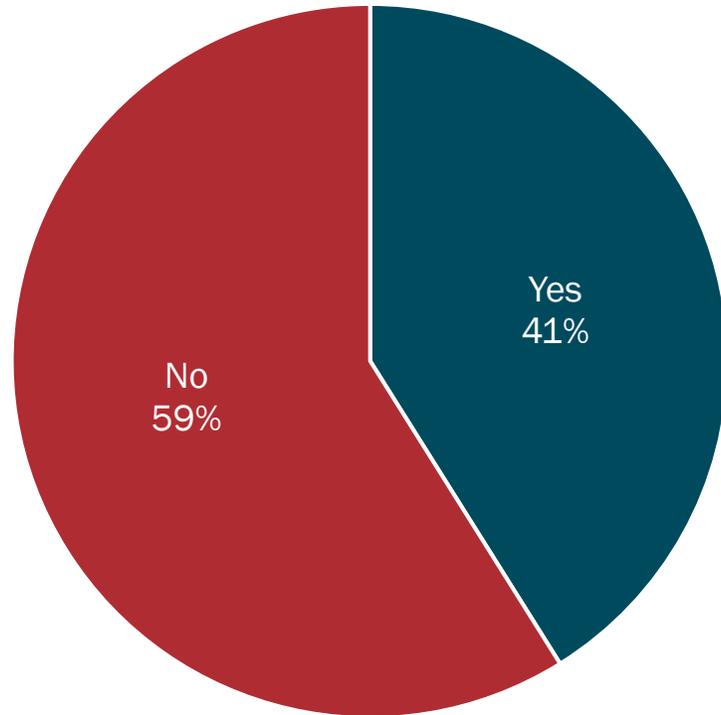


(n=292)

Sewer Connection

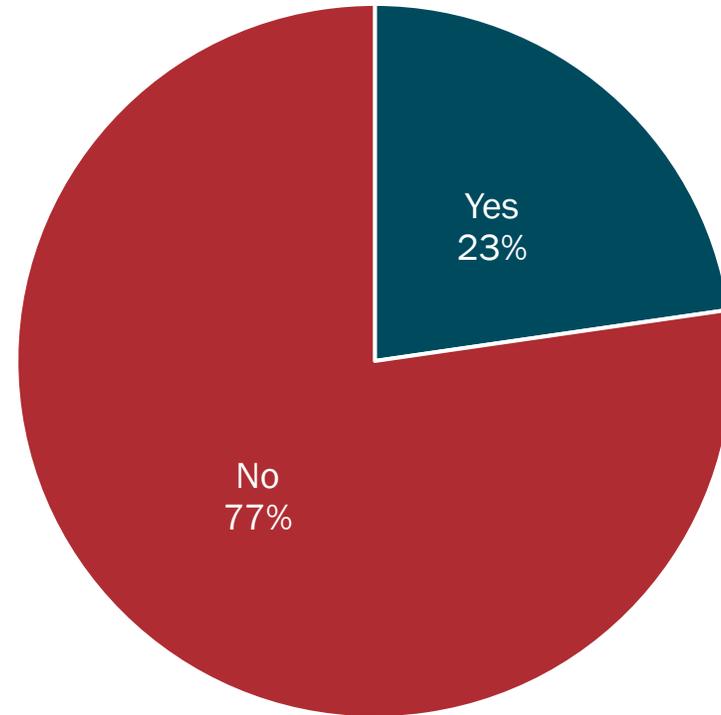
Are you interested in having your property connect to sewer? Only unconnected residents.

Live in neighborhoods highlighted in green



(n=416)

Do NOT live in neighborhoods highlighted in green

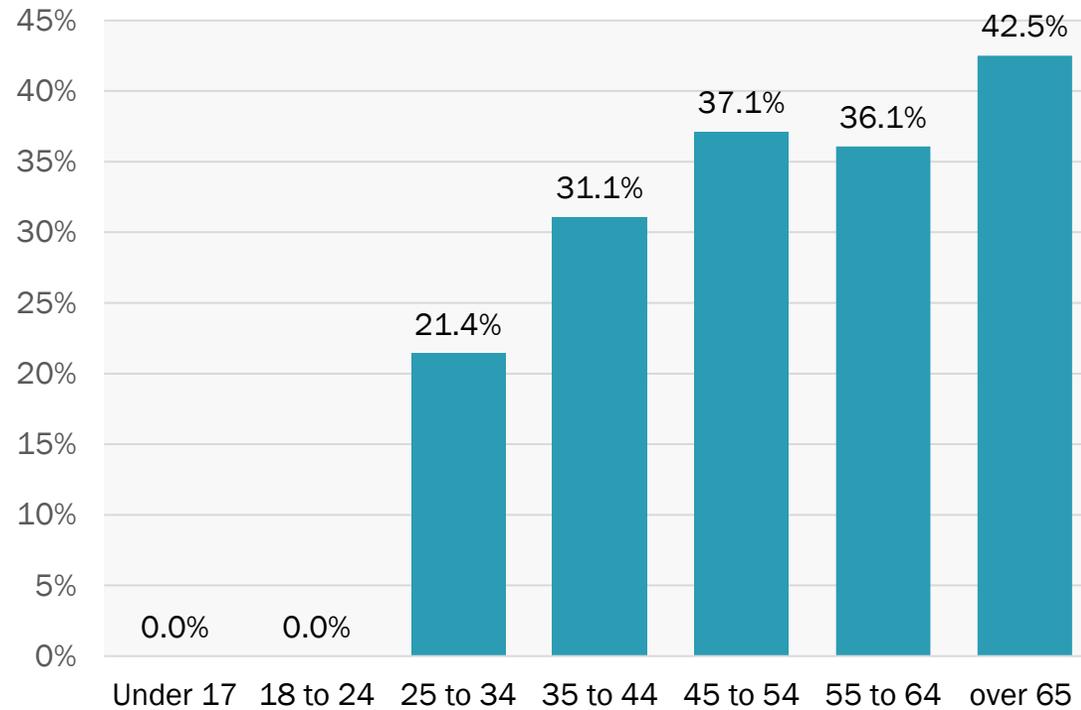


(n=229)

Sewer Connection

Are you interested in having your property connect to sewer?

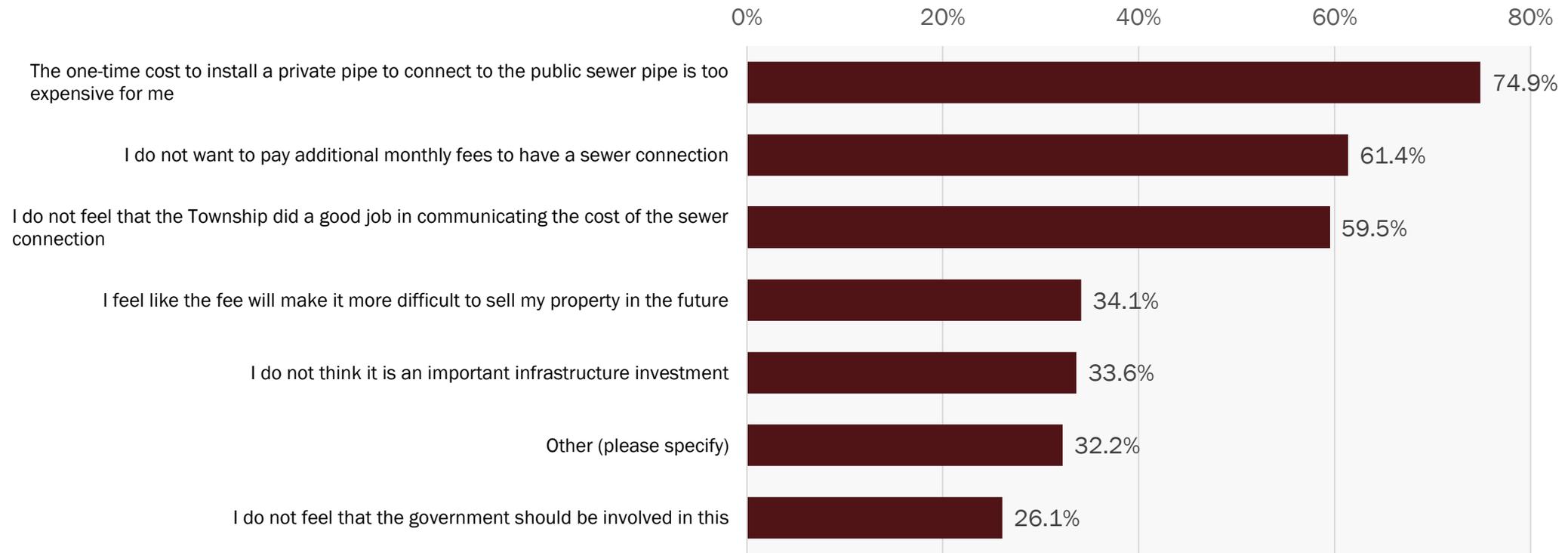
Percentage of unconnected residents indicating “yes” by age



(n=592)

Sewer Connection

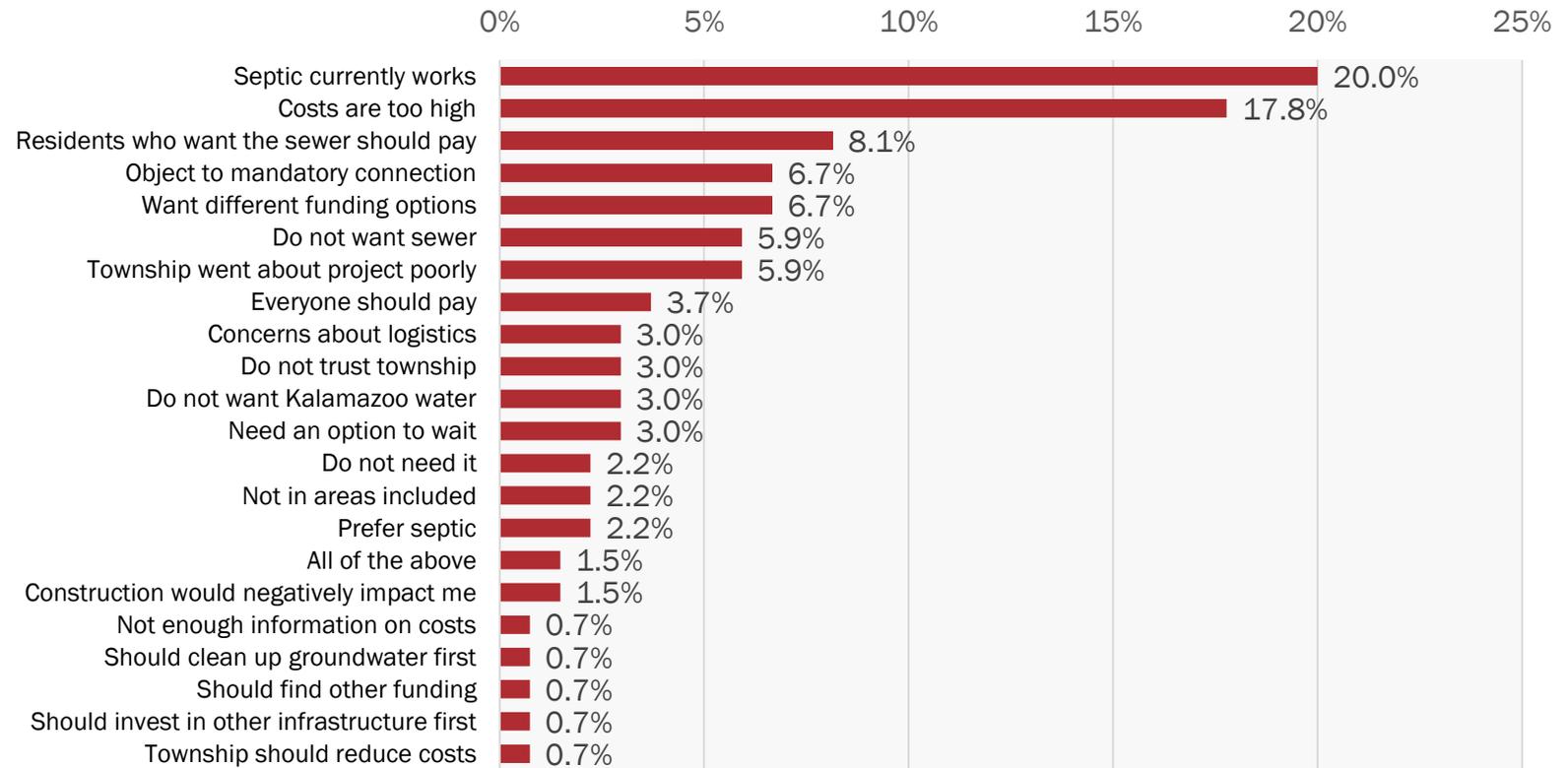
If no, which of the following options best describes your disinterest in public sewers? (More than one may be selected)



(n=422)

Sewer Connection

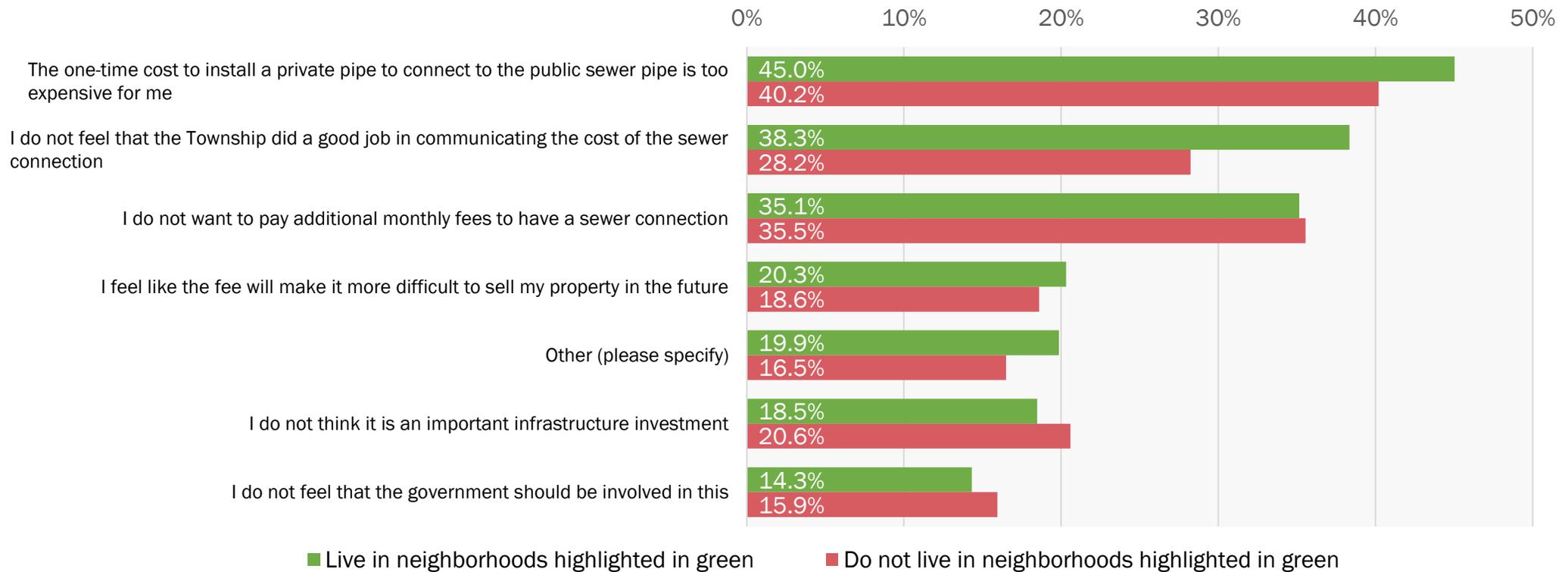
If no, which of the following options best describes your disinterest in public sewers? Other (please specify)



(n=135)

Sewer Connection

If no, which of the following options best describes your disinterest in public sewers? (More than one may be selected)

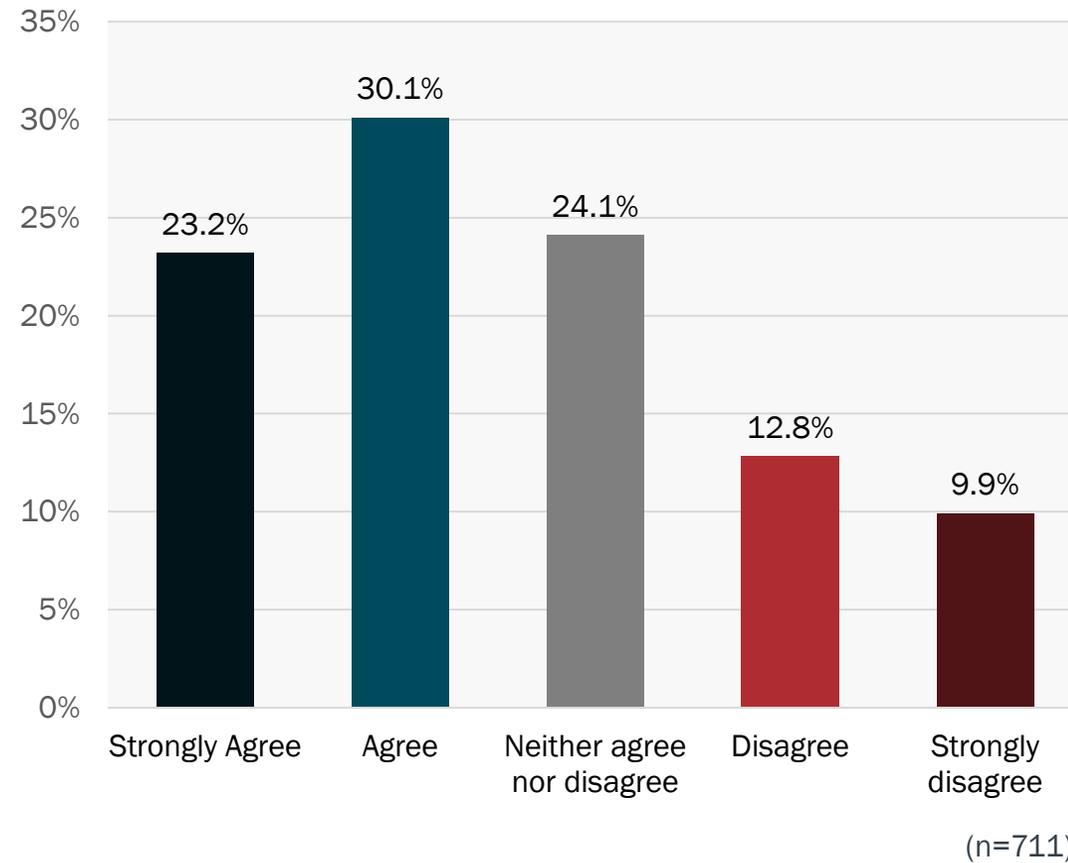


(n=422)

Water Quality

Water Quality

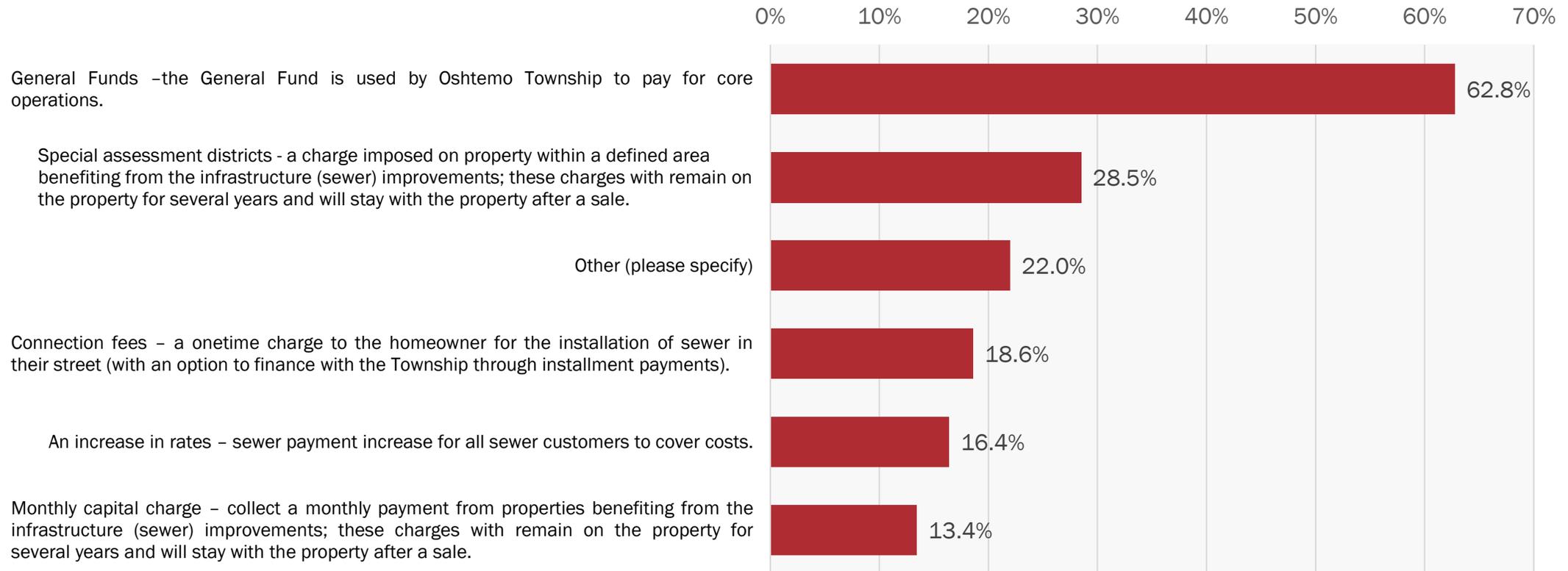
Do you agree or disagree that it is important for the township government to protect water quality by regulating waste treatment systems?



Funding Infrastructure Projects

Sewer Project Funding

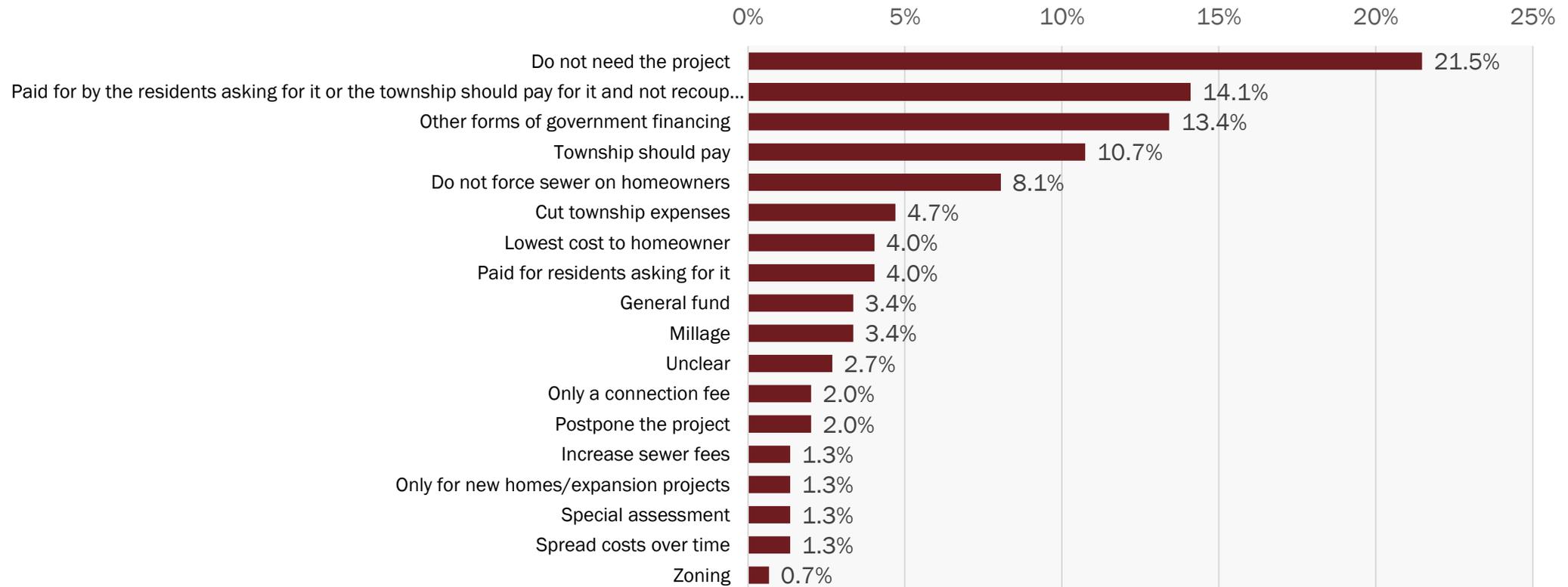
How do you think Oshtemo should fund its sewer projects? More than one may be selected.



(n=677)

Sewer Project Funding

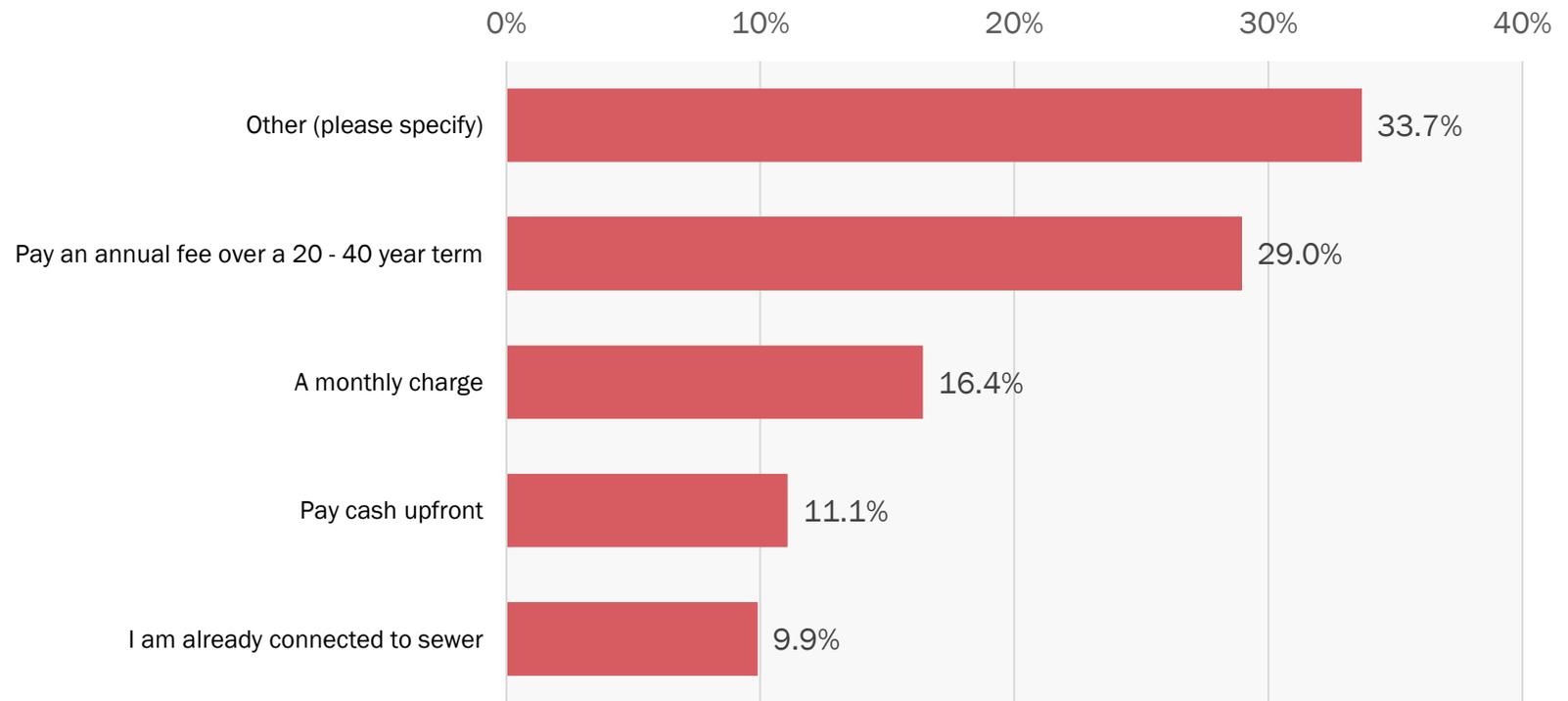
How do you think Oshtemo should fund its sewer projects? Other (please specify).



(n=135)

Sewer Project Funding

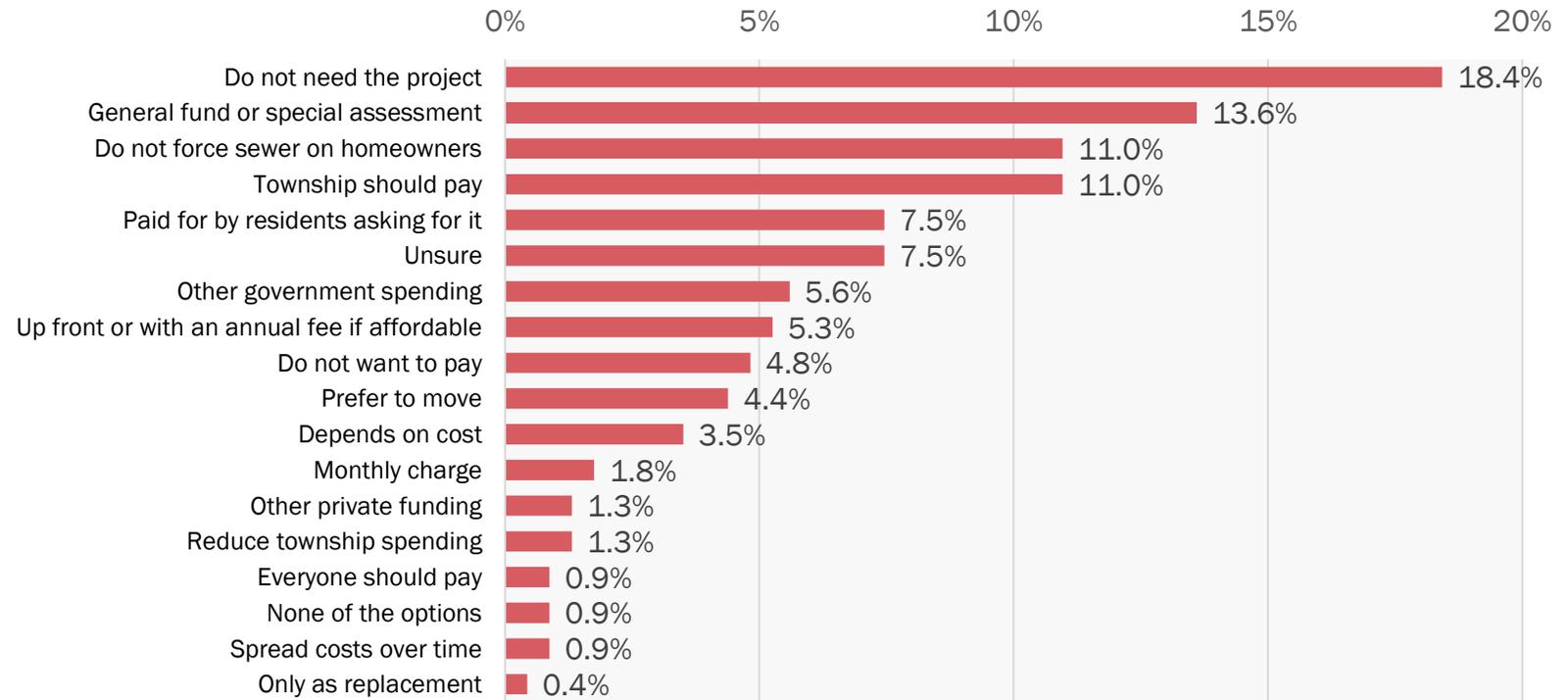
If sewer were extended into your neighborhood, as a resident, how do you prefer to pay for your portion of the public sewer cost? (not private connection)



(n=677)

Sewer Project Funding

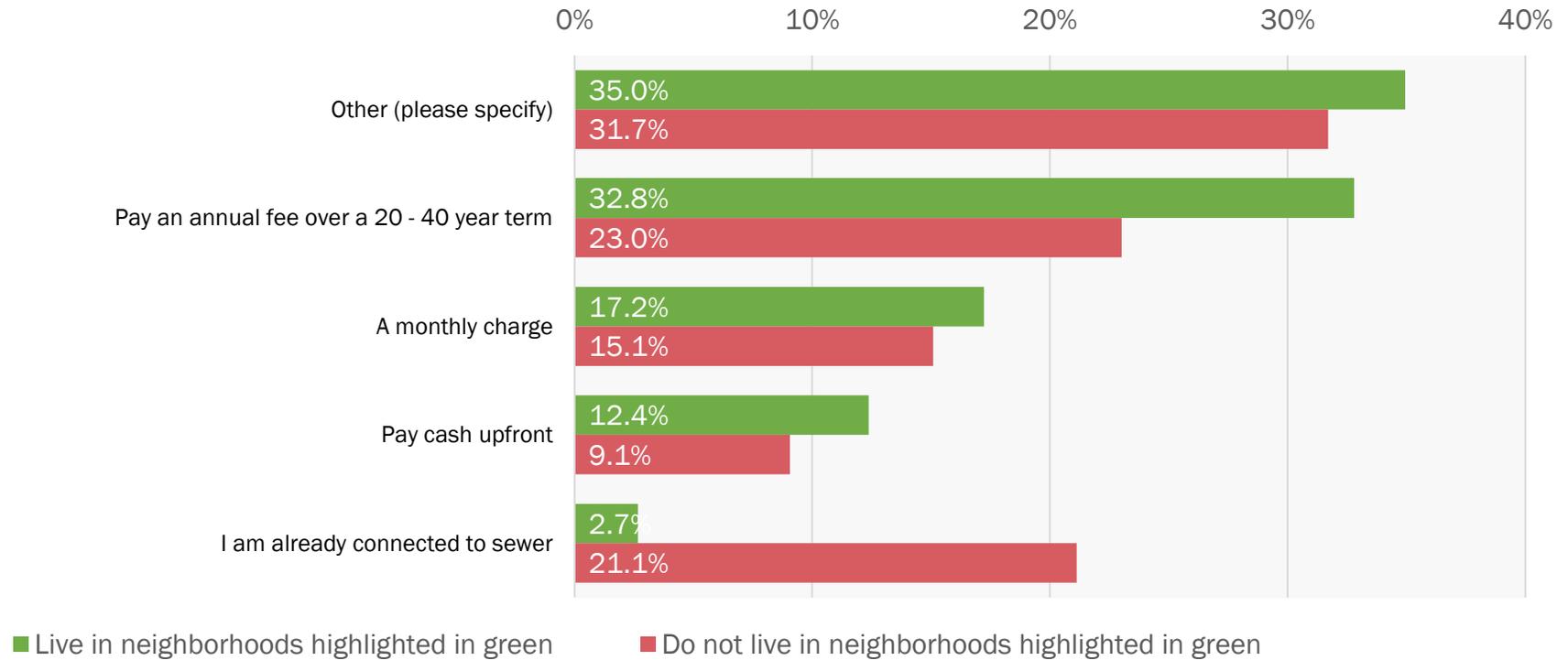
If sewer were extended into your neighborhood, as a resident, how do you prefer to pay for your portion of the public sewer cost? Other (please specify)



(n=228)

Sewer Project Funding

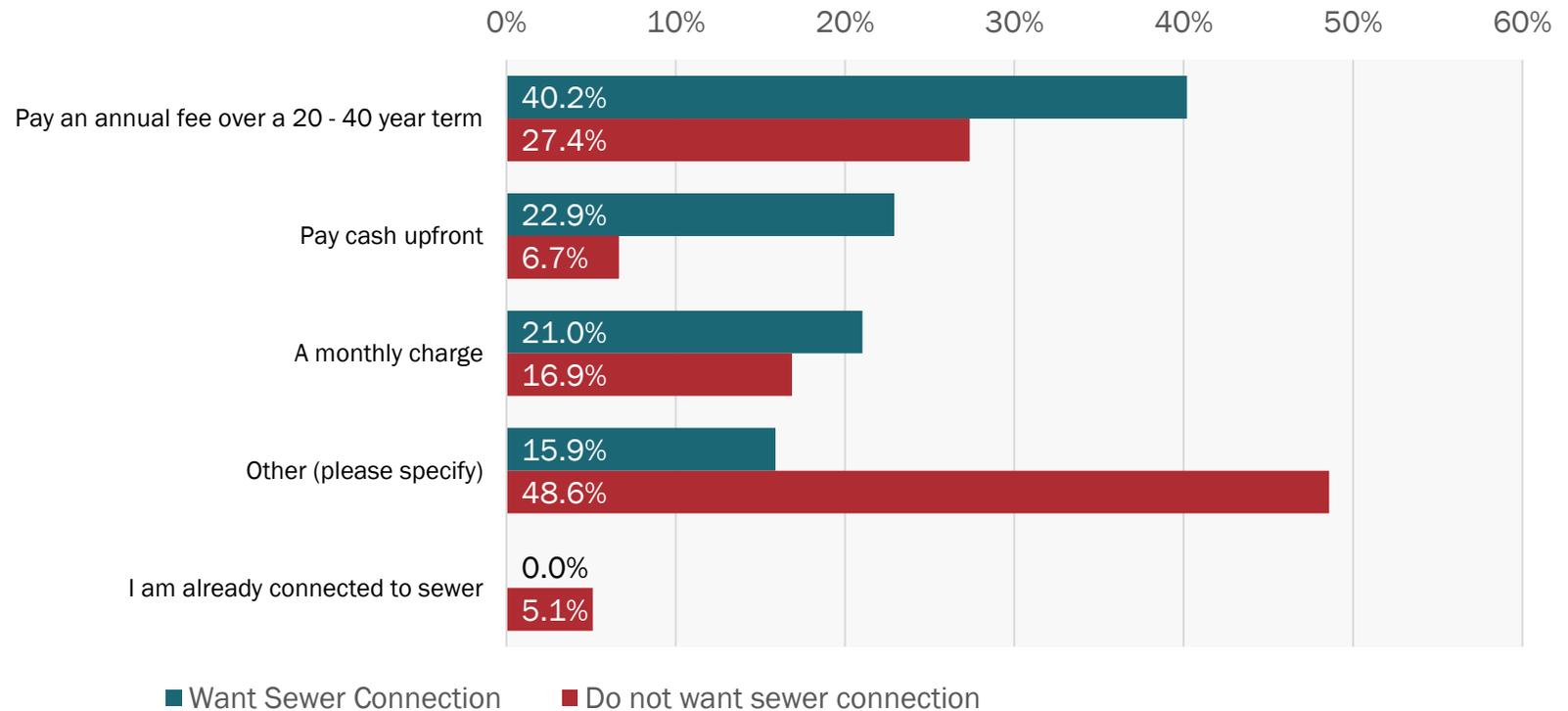
If sewer were extended into your neighborhood, as a resident, how do you prefer to pay for your portion of the public sewer cost? (not private connection)



(n=677)

Sewer Project Funding

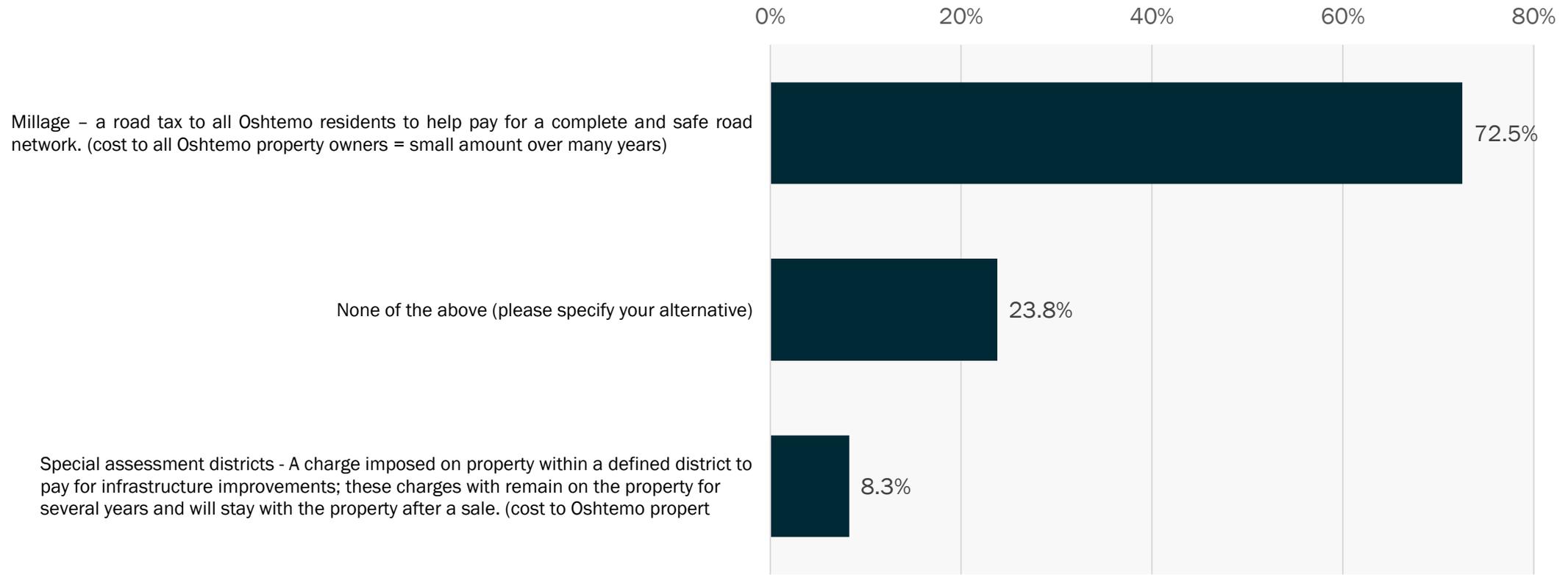
If sewer were extended into your neighborhood, as a resident, how do you prefer to pay for your portion of the public sewer cost? (not private connection)



(n=677)

Road Reconstruction Funding

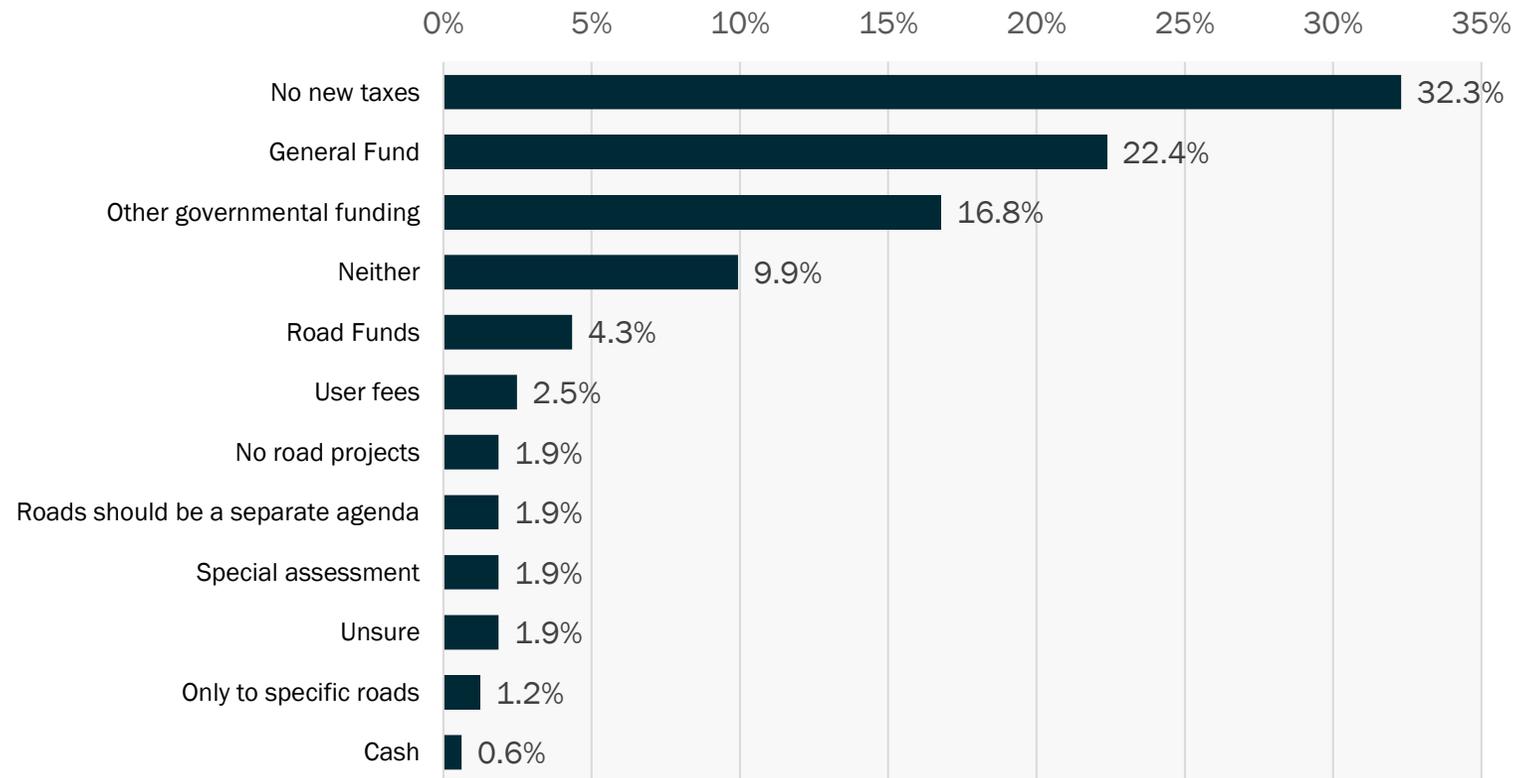
How would you prefer road reconstruction be funded in Oshtemo?



(n=677)

Road Reconstruction Funding

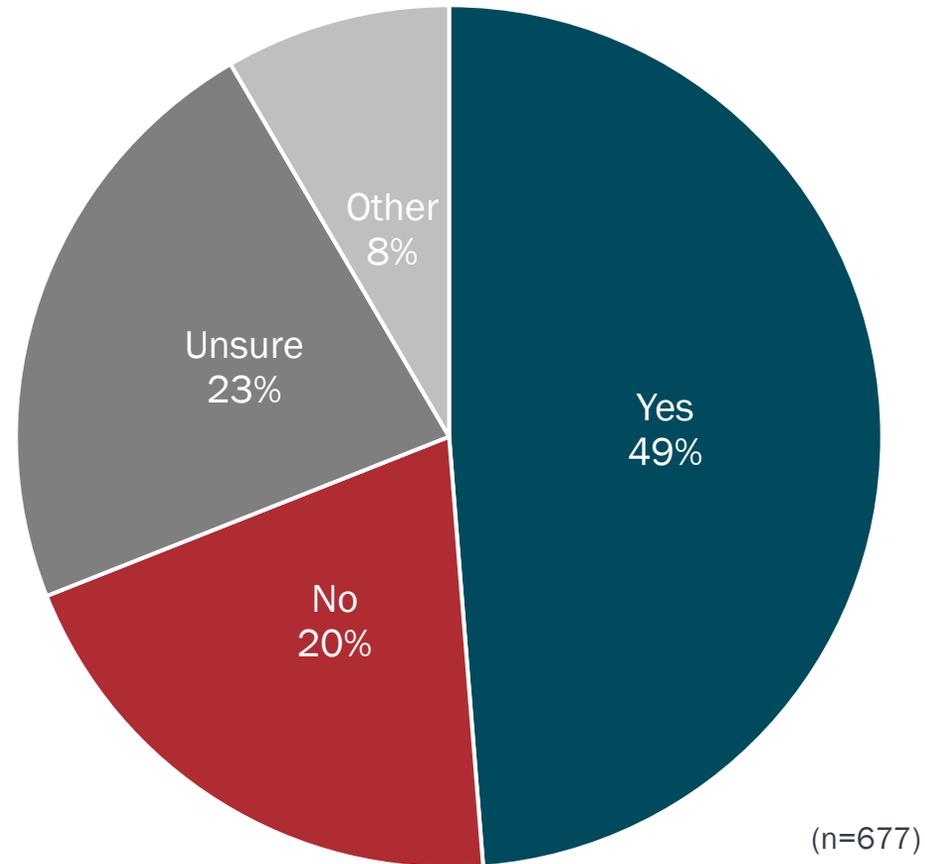
How would you prefer road reconstruction be funded in Oshtemo? None of the above (please specify your alternative)



(n=161)

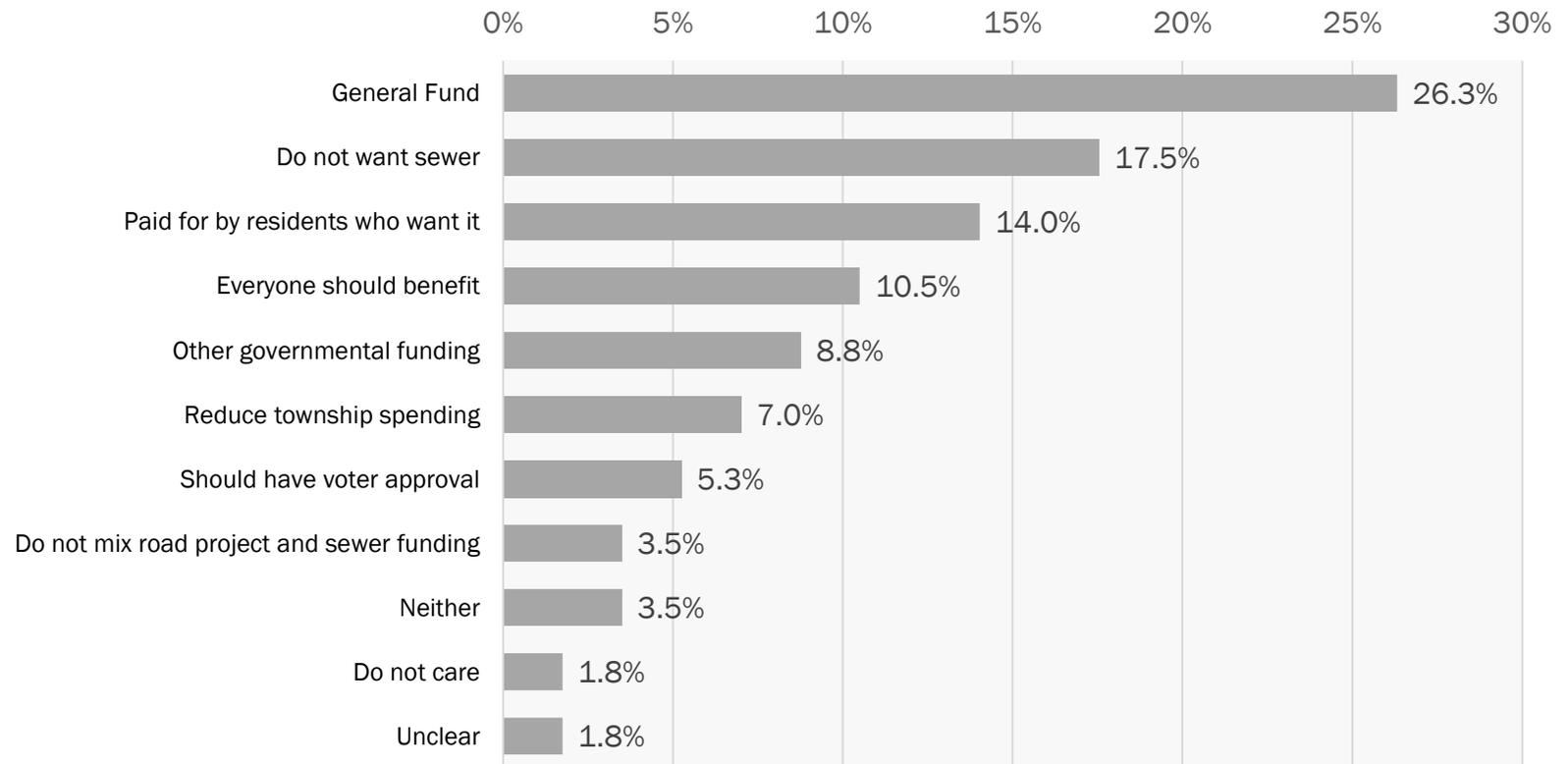
Road and Sewer Funding

Should the Township offset the public sewer cost through the use of a road millage and the general fund?



Road and Sewer Funding

Should the Township offset the public sewer cost through the use of a road millage and the general fund? (Other)

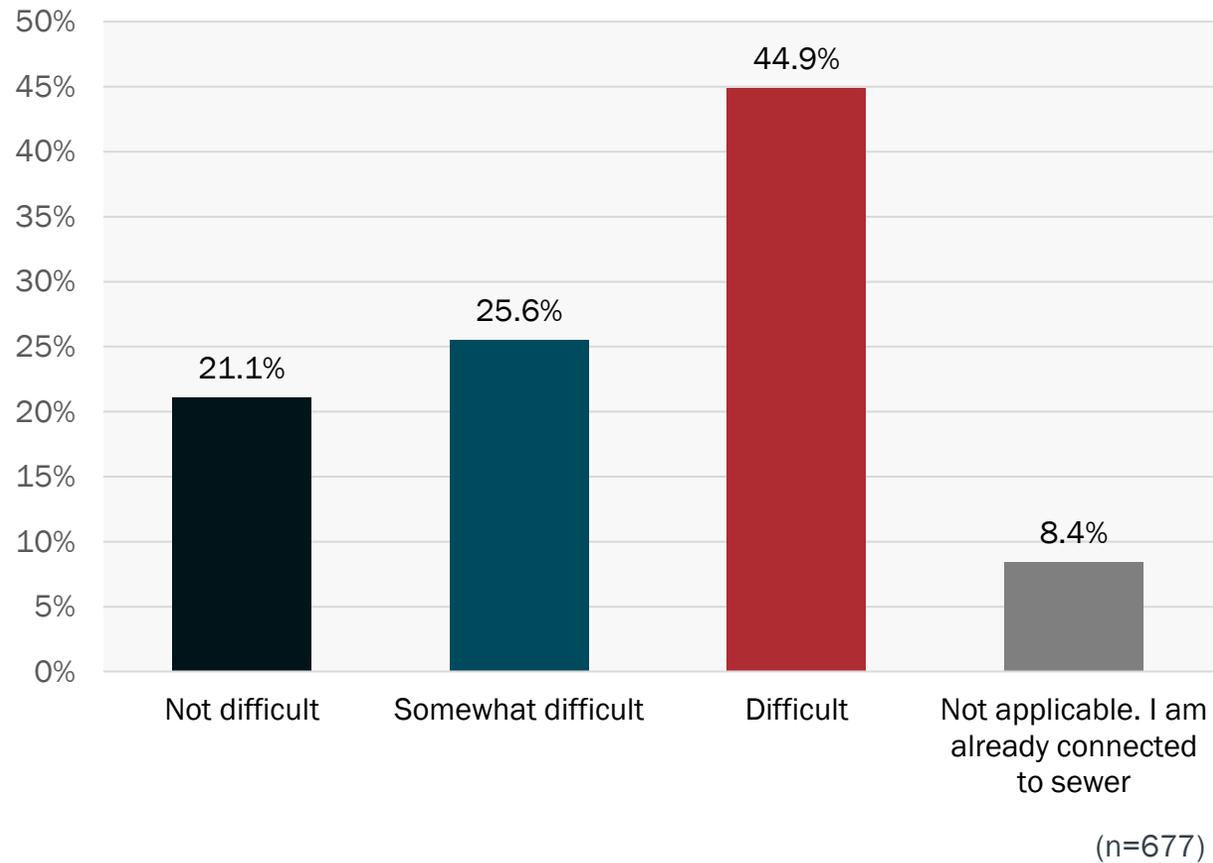


(n=57)

Personal Cost of Sewer

Personal Cost of Sewer

Based on your current financial situation, how easy or difficult would it be for you to finance the one-time private connection fee, average range of \$3,000 to \$6,000, to install pipe from your home to public sewer?



Methodology

Methodology

- This survey was designed to better understand how township residents felt about sewer expansion and the reasons behind those views.
- Surveys were administered via township newsletter, which was posted online on March 19, 2021 and mailed to residences on April 1, 2021. The survey closed on April 19, 2021.
- Out of the total 18 and older population in Oshtemo township, 734 people responded to the survey, yielding a response rate of 3.9%.
- In interpreting the results of this survey, the margin of error is $\pm 3.6\%$. Results above or below this margin of error are not considered to be statistically significant.